

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13748 310813Z
ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /004 W
-----021975 310814Z/10

O 310805Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0012

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FOR HELMAN AND DALLEY FROM MAYNES
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EO 11652:N/A
TAGS ELAB
SUBJECT: ILO BRIEFING PAPER FOR ACTING SECRETARY

1. I REALIZE THAT BEFORE DEPARTURE I NEVER SAW A
DRAFT OF BRIEFING PAPER ACTING SECRETARY WILL NEED FOR
MEETING OF CABINET COMMITTEE ON ILO. FOLLOWING ARE MY
THOUGHTS.

2. ACCORDING TO A FAIRLY RELIABLE REPORT, MEANY'S
POSTURE IS LIKELY TO BE THAT ILO MEMBERS DID MAKE
SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS BUT HE IS IN NO HURRY TO RETURN.
HE WOULD PREFER TO WAIT TO SEE HOW MEMBERSHIP HANDLES
COMPLAINT AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA
NEXT YEAR. THE AFL-CIO MAY ALSO ARGUE THAT ONE YEAR OF
GOOD RESULTS IS NOT A SUFFICIENT RECORD; THE U.S. WOULD
LOOK FOOLISH IF IT RETURNED ONLY TO FIND THAT THE NEXT
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1979 REVERSED THE PROGRESS
MADE THIS YEAR.

3. I FEEL STRONGLY STATE OUGHT TO SUPPORT RETURN.
WITH AFL-CIO'S CONCURRENCE, WE HAVE BEEN TELLING
OTHERS WHAT OUR PRIORITIES WERE. WHILE AT AFL-CIO
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INSISTENCE WE HAVE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY A BOTTOM LINE,
OUR ALLIES HAVE DELIVERED ON OUR LIST OF PRIORITIES
AND I THINK WE MUST ATTEMPT TO RESPOND IN TURN. THE
ARGUMENT THAT WE MIGHT BE EMBARRASSED BY A SUBSEQUENT
REVERSAL IN PROGRESS IF WE RETURNED AFTER A YEAR IS
ALSO TRUE AFTER TWO YEARS OR EVEN THREE AND IS REALLY
AN ADMISSION THAT THE POLICY OF LEAVING WAS ILL-

CONCEIVED IN THE FIRST PLACE. MOREOVER, IF THE REVERSAL IN PROGRESS DOES TAKE PLACE, WE HAVE OTHER MORE EFFECTIVE TOOLS AT HAND--THE MOST EXTREME BEING SUSPENSION OF OUR DUE PAYMENTS. FINALLY, IF WE WAIT ANOTHER YEAR, WE WILL LOSE OUR PERMANENT SEAT ON THE GOVERNING BOARD AND WILL BRING ON A RESTRUCTURING OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US EVER TO GET BACK IN.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANT TO AVOID POSITIONING OURSELVES AT THE CABINET MEETING IN TOTAL OPPOSITION TO THE AFL-CIO WHICH WE WILL IF WE RESTRICT OUR PRESENTATION TO THE POINTS LISTED ABOVE. CONSEQUENTLY, I AM ATTRACTED TO THE SUGGESTION THAT WE URGE THE CABINET COMMITTEE, AS PART OF OUR RE-ENTRY STRATEGY, TO GO ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF CONGRESSIONAL RATIFICATION OF SOME OF THE KEY ILO CONVENTIONS--FORCED LABOR, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. I WOULD NOT TAKE THE POSTURE THAT WE SHOULD NOT RETURN UNLESS WE RATIFY THESE CONVENTIONS BUT I WOULD ARGUE THAT RATIFICATION WOULD PUT US ON HIGHER GROUND. WE COULD USE THE LARGE NUMBER OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO OPPOSED OUR WITHDRAWAL AS THE CORE SUPPORT GROUP OF A RATIFICATION DRIVE.

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5. THESE ARE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS UNSHAPED BY CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY SURFACE IN THE DRAFT JOHN MILLS IS PREPARING. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CABLING ME THE FINAL DRAFT BEFORE IT GOES FORWARD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO13748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-1040
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978071/aaaaabdn.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c31c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1843417
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILO BRIEFING PAPER FOR ACTING SECRETARY
TAGS: ELAB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c31c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014